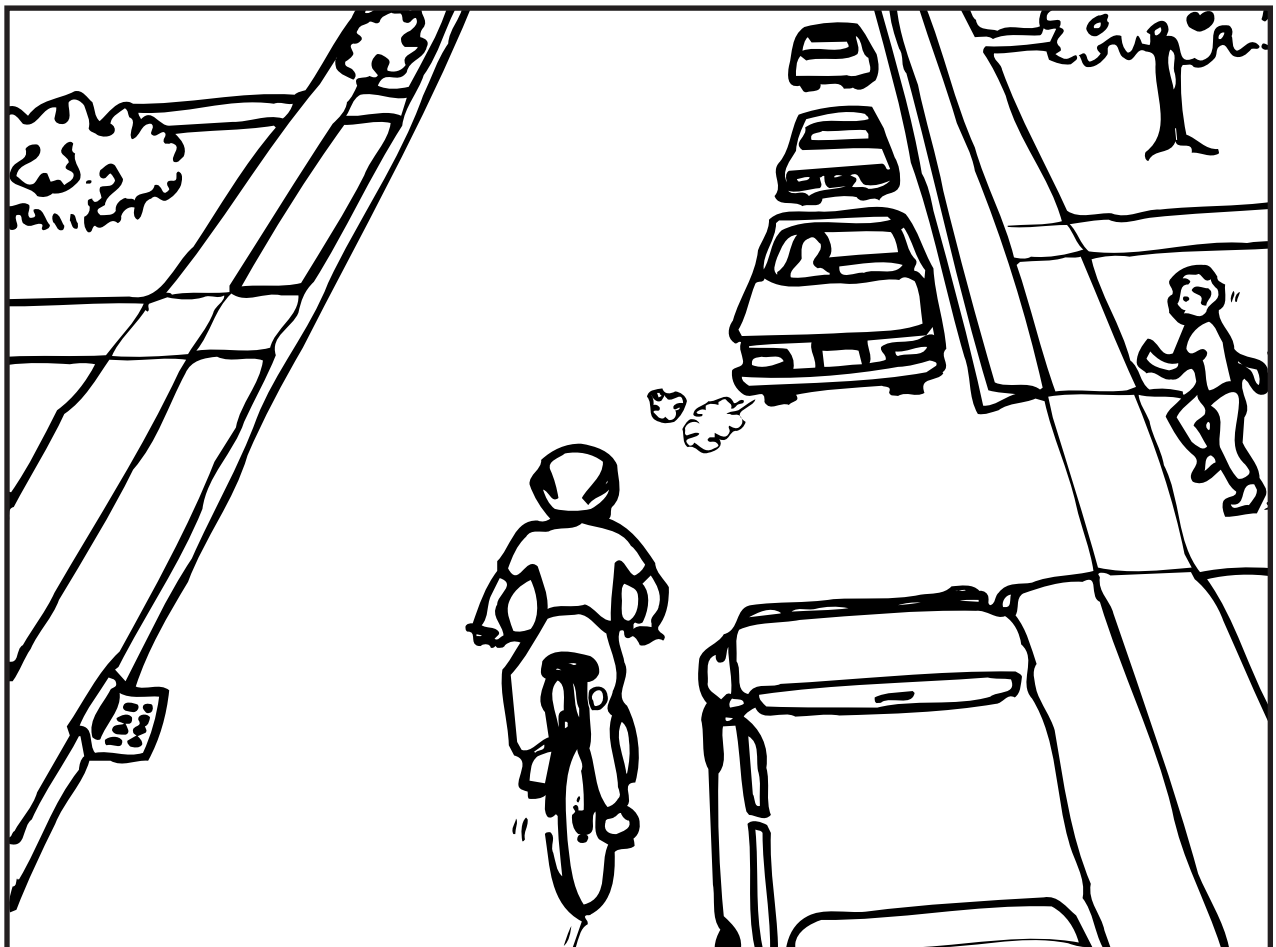


Instructor's Guide for the

BICYCLE DRIVER'S TEST



MILWAUKEE SAFETY DIVISION

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE TO THE BICYCLE DRIVER'S TEST (How Well Do You Drive Your Bike?) INTRODUCTION

At last count bicycle traffic crashes in the City of Milwaukee totaled 203. Of these, 74 were children between 10 and 14 years of age. Our studies have shown that the child bicycle driver's actions are responsible for causing most crashes. In order to reduce crashes, the bicyclist must assume the attitude that he/she is a driver of a vehicle in traffic and as such, must know and follow the same rules and procedures that other drivers do. This guide and accompanying pamphlet combined with your own knowledge and experience as a driver can assist in attaining this end. The pamphlet "How Well Do You Drive Your Bike" is a bicycle driver's test produced to stimulate discussion on driving techniques. It places the bicycle drivers in a typical driving situation that calls for a decision on their part. Situations portrayed are based on the leading causes of crashes.

You as a teacher play an integral role in the development of the student's safety consciousness and safety habits. Your efforts spent on this lesson may be the only instruction given to your students regarding bicycle driving. Establishing safe bicycle driving habits in your students now, can result in a reduction of crashes and possibly produce safer automobile drivers in the future.

Objectives:

1. Increase the bicycle driver's awareness of traffic rules, regulations and procedures.
2. Increase the bicycle driver's awareness of potential dangers while driving.
3. Develop safe driving habits and techniques for bicycle drivers that will carry over to automobile driving.

Goals:

1. Reduce the number of bicycle crashes involving school age children (short term).
2. Reduce the number of bicycle crashes involving all ages (long term).
3. Know procedures and techniques for operating a vehicle in traffic properly and safely.

Methods & Procedures:

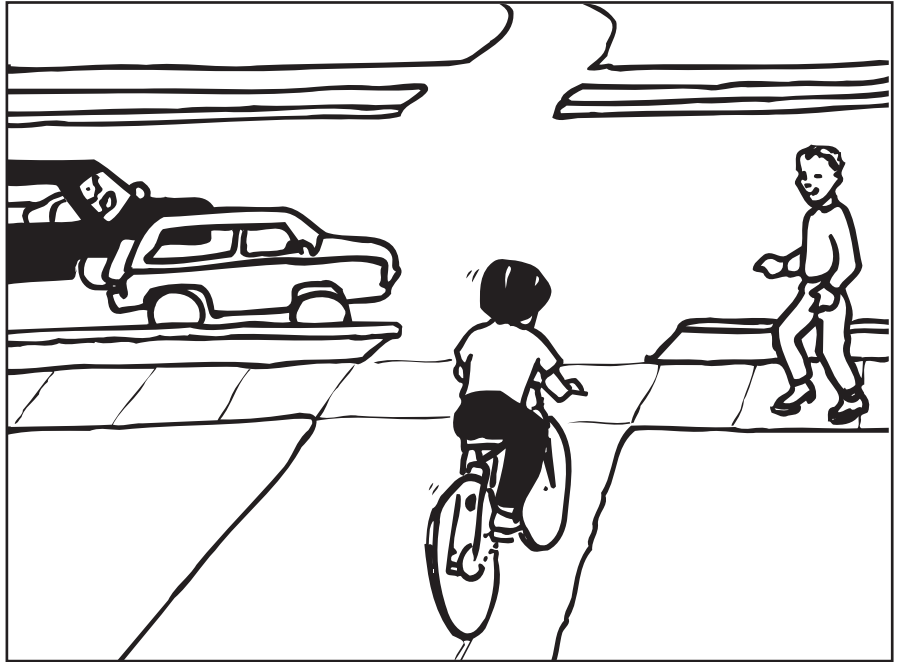
- A. In order to make this test more meaningful to the students, it is suggested that the teacher conduct the test by reading the questions to the students as they read the handout.
- B. After each question, give the correct answer. Discuss the situation portrayed and utilize the other discussion questions provided.

SITUATION 1

ENTERING THE ROADWAY

You are driving your bicycle down the driveway, and you want to enter the roadway. There is a man walking on the sidewalk near the drive. There is a parked car near the driveway and a car coming down the street. What would you do to enter the roadway?

- A)** Drive slowly into the roadway.
- B)** Stop at the parked car. Wait until the oncoming car passes and then go.
- C)** Stop before the sidewalk, yield to the pedestrian and oncoming traffic, and then go.
- D)** Drive on the sidewalk until it is safe to enter the roadway.



(CORRECT ANSWER: C)

DISCUSSION:

- 1)** Do you have to stop for the pedestrian?

Yes. The law says you have to yield the right of way to a pedestrian at all times.

- 2)** Do you have to stop at the sidewalk if there is no one walking down the sidewalk?

Yes. The law says to enter a roadway, you must stop before the sidewalk before crossing it.

- 3)** Does the bicycle have the right of way when entering the roadway?

No. The vehicle on the road has the right of way. You should wait until traffic has passed before you enter the roadway.

- 4)** Can I drive my bicycle on the sidewalk?

Yes, if you are age 10 or younger. Deaf persons are also allowed to drive their bicycles on the sidewalk.

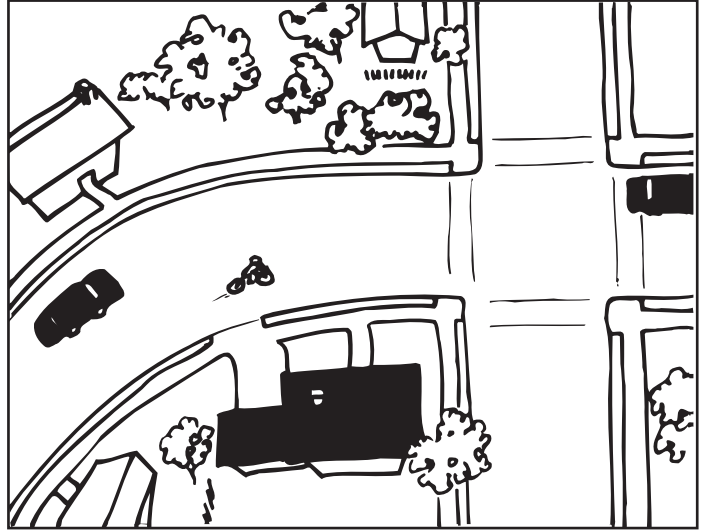
SITUATION 2

LEFT TURN

You're driving your bicycle on a main street where traffic is light. You are in the right lane in the middle of the block. At the next corner you plan to make a left turn. There is a car some distance behind you, and another car is approaching the intersection from the opposite direction. What steps would you take to make this turn correctly?

- A) Check traffic behind you, and if clear, give a left turn signal and then move into the left lane.
- B) Give another left turn signal as you near the intersection.
- C) Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, and then make your turn.
- D) All of the above.

(CORRECT ANSWER: D)



DISCUSSION:

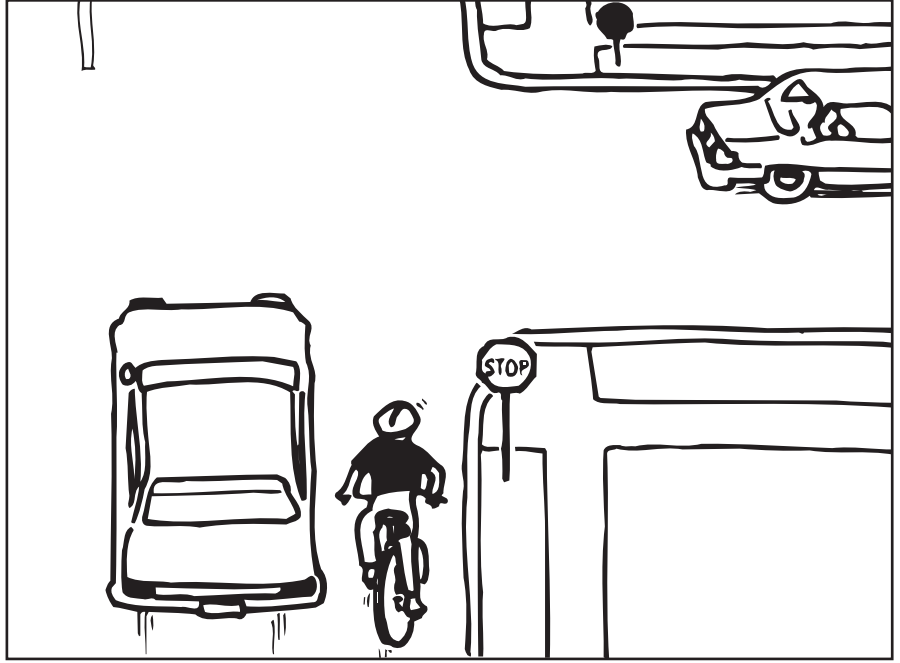
- 1) In order for the students to understand more clearly what is expected of bicycle drivers, have them draw their path of travel making a left turn on Drawing Number 2. The instructor should then point out the correct path of travel.
- 2) Would you make your turn the same way at a busy intersection?
No. The safest way to make a turn at a busy intersection would be to drive through the intersection in the right lane and then walk your bicycle across the street.
- 3) Why do we give signals when we're driving?
Signaling tells other drivers around us what we intend to do.
- 4) Demonstrate the hand signals bicycle drivers use - left turn, right turn, stop or slow down.
- 5) Does signaling give you the right of way to make your turn without checking traffic or yielding?
No. You do have to check traffic and yield if something is coming.
- 6) What steps would you take to make a right turn?
 - A. Stay in the right lane.
 - B. Give right turn signal.
 - C. Check ahead for cross traffic and cars that may be making a left turn onto the same street that you are turning onto.
 - D. Check behind you for any car that may be overtaking you and wanting to make the same right turn.
 - E. If all is clear and there are no pedestrians crossing, make your turn.
- 7) Why is it important to be in the left lane for left turns and right lane for right turns?
This is done so you cross as few paths of other vehicles as possible.

SITUATION 3

DISREGARD FOR TRAFFIC CONTROLS

As you are driving your bicycle, you come to an intersection that has a stop sign on all four corners. A car that is travelling in the same direction as you, begins to pull away from the stop sign after making a complete stop. At the same time, you see a car approaching the intersection from your right. You should:

- A) Catch up to the car ahead of you and slide through the stop sign next to the car.
- B) Slow down enough to see if it is safe and keep going.
- C) Come to a complete stop at the sign and wait your turn before entering the intersection.
- D) Stop only if the car coming from your right doesn't stop.



(CORRECT ANSWER: C)

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Are stop signs and other traffic signs meant for bicycle drivers?

Yes. A bicycle is a vehicle the same as cars, trucks, buses, and motorcycles. Signs mean the same thing to all drivers. All drivers should obey them.

- 2) Why do we have traffic laws, signs and signals?

Traffic laws are made to let the many drivers share the road and get where they are going in a safe and orderly manner. With laws, drivers can expect other drivers to do certain things at certain times and places. Because of these laws, we can reasonably expect other drivers to do what they are supposed to do.

- 3) What would happen if there were no traffic laws? (To bring the case closer to home, **name a busy intersection in the neighborhood** and ask what would happen if the traffic signals were removed and nothing was there.)

Result: disorder, crashes, injuries, death, people looking out only for themselves, traffic jams, etc.

- 4) As you drive down the street, you expect car drivers to do certain things in different traffic situations. Do car drivers expect bicycle drivers to react in a certain way in traffic situations?

Yes. If you don't react the way the driver expects you to (following traffic laws, rules and procedures) the result may be a crash.

- 5) At a traffic signal, should the bicycle driver enter the intersection when the yellow light is on?

No. If the light is yellow, you probably won't make it through the intersection before the light changes to red. A bicyclist should stop when he/she sees the light changing to yellow.

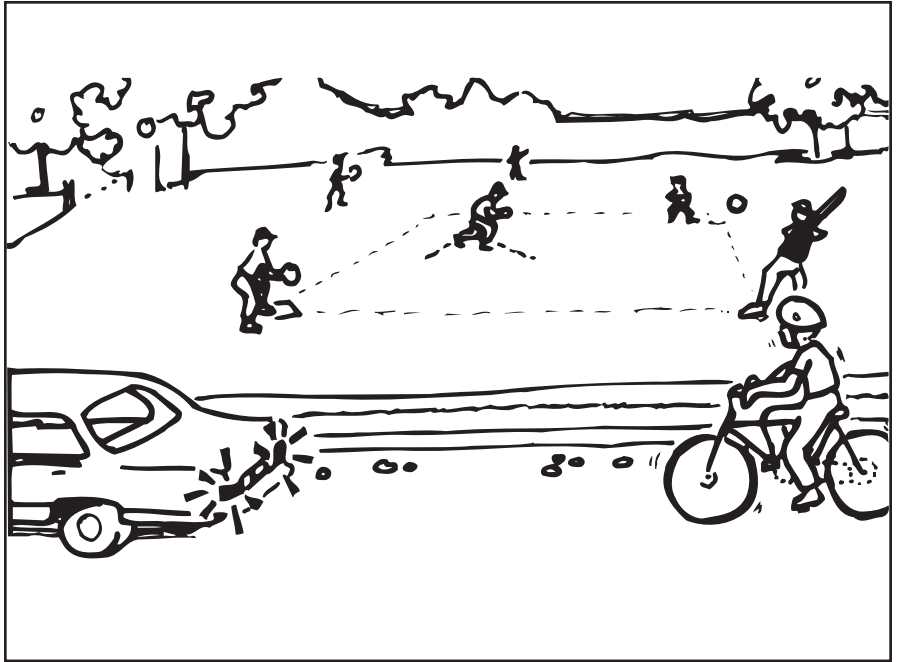
SITUATION 4

INATTENTIVE DRIVING

You are driving past a playground and are watching some of your friends playing baseball. Suddenly, you look ahead and there is a stopped car in front of you. Why did you get into this situation?

- A) You weren't alert and didn't give your full attention to driving your bicycle.
- B) You didn't drive anticipating any sudden danger that other traffic can present.
- C) You paid too much attention to your friends on the playground.
- D) All of the above.

(CORRECT ANSWER: D)



DISCUSSION:

- 1) Why should you give your full attention to driving your bicycle?
 - A. Cars could appear suddenly coming out of alleys, driveways, parking lots, parking spaces, etc.
 - B. Cars could suddenly slow down, stop, or move into your traffic lane.
 - C. If you are not looking where you're going, you could run into a parked car.
- 2) Could other things in the roadway cause problems for the bicycle drivers?
 - Yes. Pedestrians
 - Potholes in the road
 - Broken glass
 - Foreign objects (car parts, tree branches, bricks, stones, and other debris)
- 3) In the above situation, what might happen if:
 - A. You applied your brakes quickly?
Maybe you couldn't stop in time. Applying brakes quickly could cause you to skid or lose control and fall.
 - B. You swerve to the left side of the stopped car?
If you swerve to the left, you could be going into the lane of oncoming traffic.
 - C. You swerve to the right side of the stopped car?
If you swerve to the right, you could hit a parked car or the curb.
- 4) What is the correct way to drive across railroad tracks?
 - Right angle.

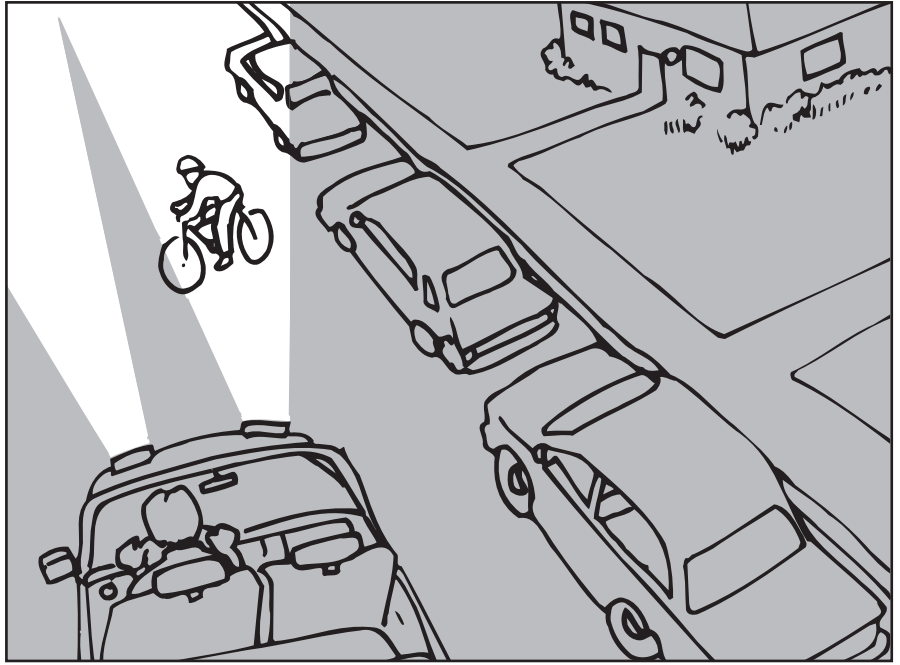
SITUATION 5

VISIBILITY & FAULTY EQUIPMENT

You are the car driver. You are driving along in your car after dark. You think you see something among the parked cars ahead of you. Suddenly a bicycle appears in your headlights. What would have made the bicycle and bicyclist easier to see?

- A) Reflectors.
- B) Lights.
- C) Light colored clothing.
- D) Reflective material on the bicycle and driver's clothing.
- E) All of the above.

(CORRECT ANSWER: E)



DISCUSSION:

- 1) If you can see a car at night, does that mean the driver can see you?

Not necessarily. Don't forget he/she is looking through a windshield. Tinted windows make it seem darker than it is and glare from the headlights and neon lights on the windshield make it hard for the driver to see. If your bicycle isn't properly equipped, it may be more difficult for a driver to see you.

- 2) What safety equipment is required on a bicycle?

- A. A 2" red reflector on the rear of the bicycle.
- B. A white headlight if the bicycle is driven at night.
- C. Good working brakes.

- 3) Can bicycle brakes fail?

Yes. If you have coaster brakes and the chain is loose or goes off the sprocket or breaks, you won't be able to stop. If you have hand brakes, the brake pads can wear out. The wire or cable leading to them can break or come loose, and in bad weather the brake pads and rims would get wet, making it harder to stop.

- 4) What type of reflective materials have you seen and/or used?

For clothes: Sew on tape and spots.

Iron on tape and spots.

For hard surfaces: Stick on material.

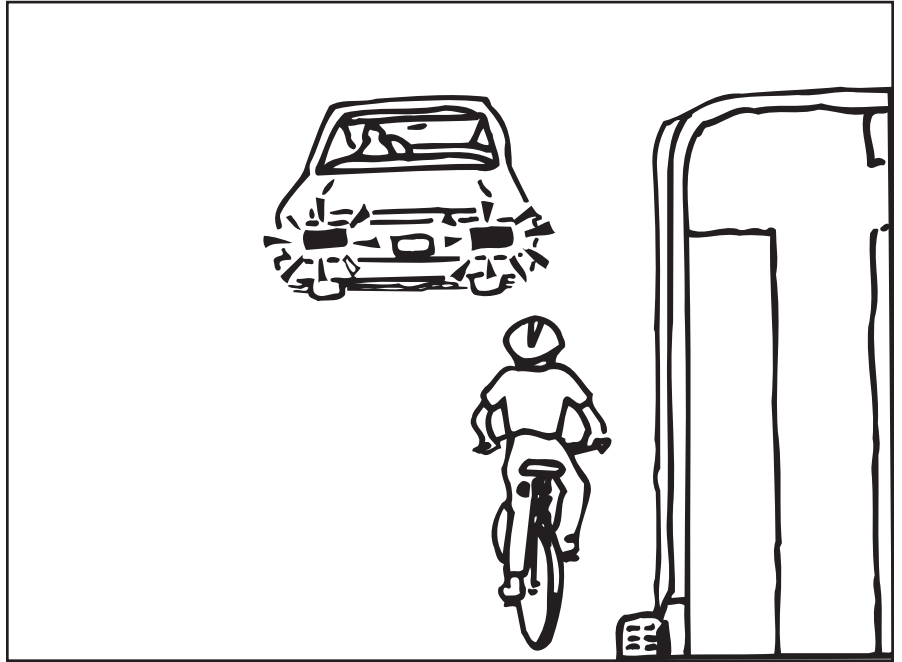
SITUATION 6

OVERTAKING VEHICLE ON RIGHT SIDE

You are driving down a street and notice the car ahead of you is slowing down in the right lane. You should:

- A)** Slow down.
- B)** Speed up and pass the slowing car on the right.
- C)** Come to a stop in the roadway.
- D)** Stay behind the car until you know what the driver plans to do. He/she may be stopping, parking or turning right.

(CORRECT ANSWER: D)



DISCUSSION:

- 1)** Is it necessary for drivers to know you're there, even if you're behind them?
Yes. You could be in a driver's blind spot, (rear corner post) and they could turn into your path.
- 2)** What is a blind spot?
The posts that hold up the roof. Drivers can't see through them, and they could block out the driver's view of things as large as a truck.
- 3)** Can you tell by a driver's position in the roadway, what he/she intends to do?
Yes. It can give some idea of what he/she plans to do. Give examples.
- 4)** What else tells you what a driver intends to do?
Signal lights, arm signals, brake lights, noticing where the driver is looking, the direction car wheels are turning.

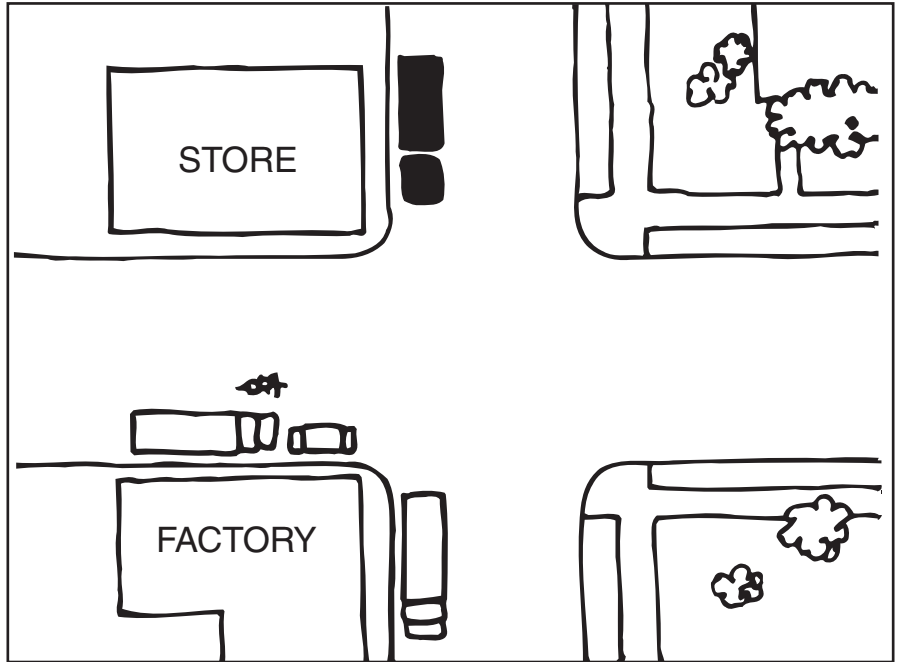
SITUATION 7

VISIBILITY

You are driving your bicycle down a street. You are approaching an intersection which has no traffic controls such as a traffic light, stop sign, or yield sign. There are buildings on the corners and cars and trucks parked right up to the corner. What would you do to drive through the intersection safely?

- A) Slow down while driving through.
- B) Stop completely and look around the parked vehicles to see if it's safe, before continuing.
- C) Drive through without looking.
- D) Listen for oncoming traffic and drive through.

(CORRECT ANSWER: B)



DISCUSSION:

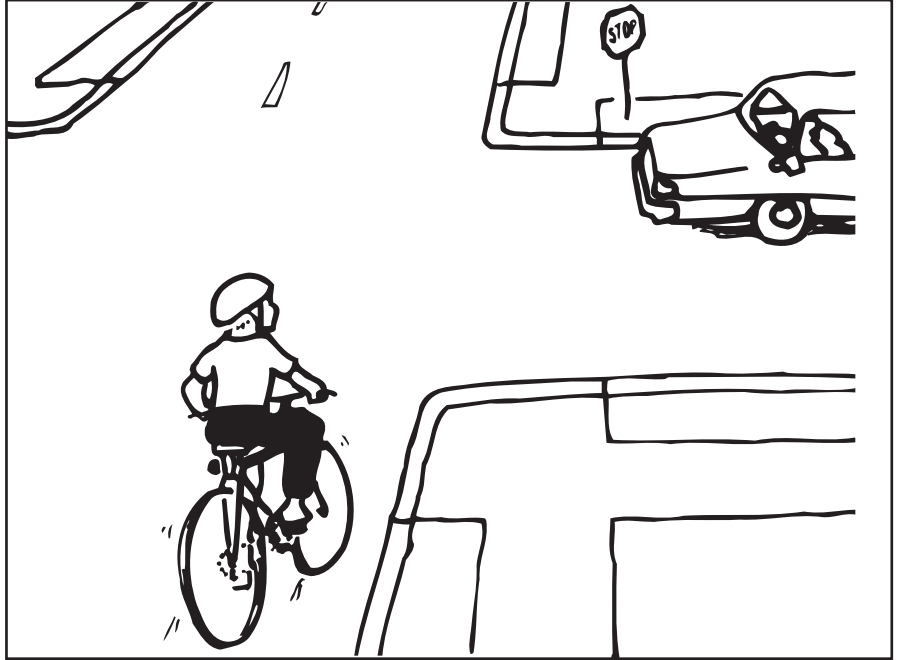
- 1) Why is it unsafe to drive right into an intersection under these conditions?
Anytime anything blocks your view, (buildings, parked cars, bushes, etc.) you could be driving into the path of another vehicle.
- 2) Can drivers of cars or bicycles stop immediately if the need arises?
No. First the driver has to see a reason to stop, and then react to the situation. During this time the car or bicycle is still moving. Once the brakes are applied, the vehicle travels some distance before it stops. All this takes time and distance. In addition to this, the faster you're traveling, the longer it takes to stop.
- 3) Using the same intersection, if you are coming from the opposite direction, what steps would you take to drive through this intersection safely? (Note that there is no sight distance problem coming from this side.)
- 4) Again, coming from the opposite direction, how would you react if there were a yield sign facing you and no cars approaching?
- 5) Using discussion question #4, ask what they would do if there was a car approaching from their left?

SITUATION 8

MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS FAIL TO YIELD

You're driving your bicycle down a main street, and as you reach the intersection, you see that there is a car stopped for the stop sign off to your right. There are no stop signs on the street that you're driving on. How should you drive through this intersection?

- A) Keep on going because you know the car will stay stopped.
- B) Be prepared to stop in case the driver does not yield to you.
- C) Come to a stop until you know what the driver is going to do.
- D) Drive right through because you have the right of way.



(CORRECT ANSWER: B)

DISCUSSION:

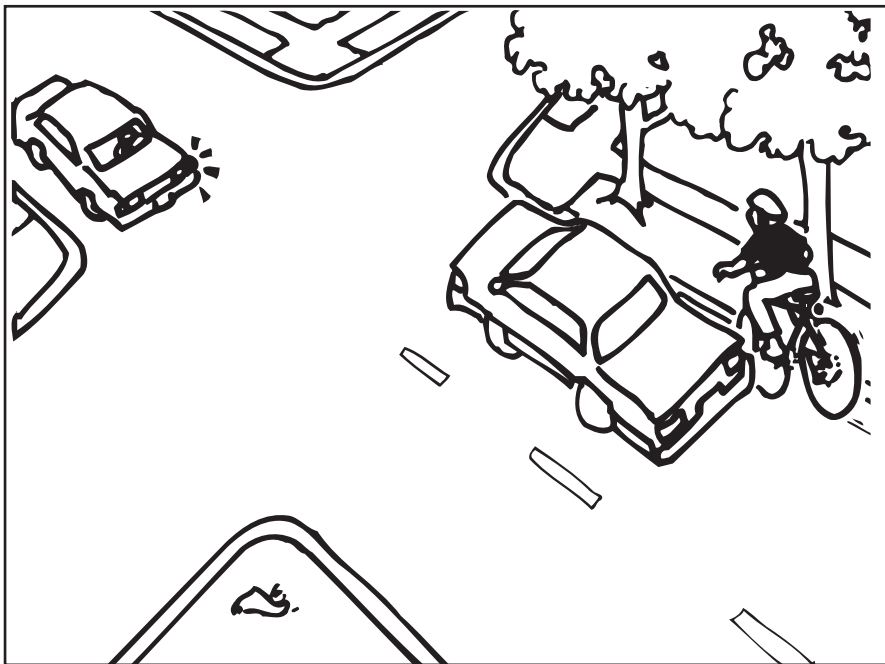
- 1) Who has the right of way in this situation?
The bicyclist.
- 2) Can you always depend on the car driver to yield or wait for you to go first? If not, why?
No. The driver possibly does not see you; possibly he/she thinks he/she is faster and can get through the intersection before you; possibly he/she does not think he/she has to wait for you.
- 3) Why do some drivers feel they can always go before the bicycle does?
Discuss driver attitude - doesn't think the bicycle driver has rights to the road.
- 4) Explain who has the right of way when two vehicles traveling in different directions reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time. (The vehicle to the right has the right of way.)
- 5) Is it wise for the bicyclist to insist on his/her right of way?
No. Since the bicycle driver would sustain greater injuries in the event of a collision, he/she should always be prepared to yield.

SITUATION 9

MOTORIST FAILING TO YIELD - LEFT TURN & VISIBILITY

You are driving your bicycle on a busy street that is lined with big shade trees. You are in the right lane, and there is a car going in the same direction on your left. As you near the intersection, you notice one of the cars coming toward you has its left turn signal flashing. What would you do to drive through this intersection safely?

- A) Keep going because the left turning car should yield to you.
- B) Speed up so you get through the intersection before the car does.
- C) Keep driving because drivers always stop for bicycles.
- D) Be prepared to stop or yield in case the driver does not.



(CORRECT ANSWER: D)

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Does the driver making a left turn always see you - the bicyclist - going straight?

Not always. A driver making this turn is mainly concerned with not being hit by oncoming cars and may not notice a bicyclist.

- 2) Can a bicyclist be easily seen by a driver?

No. A bicyclist is much smaller in size than cars, trucks and buses. Drivers had trouble seeing motorcycles so a law was passed that says they must have their headlights on at all times. You're a little smaller and narrower in size, so you are harder to see.

- 3) What other things or conditions could make it difficult for a driver to see you?

Being hidden by faster moving cars in traffic.
Being hidden by stopped or parked cars.

Blending in with tree shadows.
Weather factors - sun, rain, fog.

- 4) Is it easy for a driver to judge the speed and distance of a bicyclist?

No. The speeds that bicycles travel vary because of the different types of bicycles and the persons driving them. This makes it difficult for a driver to judge their speed.

- 5) Even if the driver does see you, can you always depend on him/her to treat you as any other vehicle on the road and yield the right of way to you?

No. Not all drivers have the attitude that you have a rightful place on the roadway. Some bully you because of your size and will always insist on going first. Always drive your bicycle thinking that the other driver may not be willing to admit you have a right to be there.

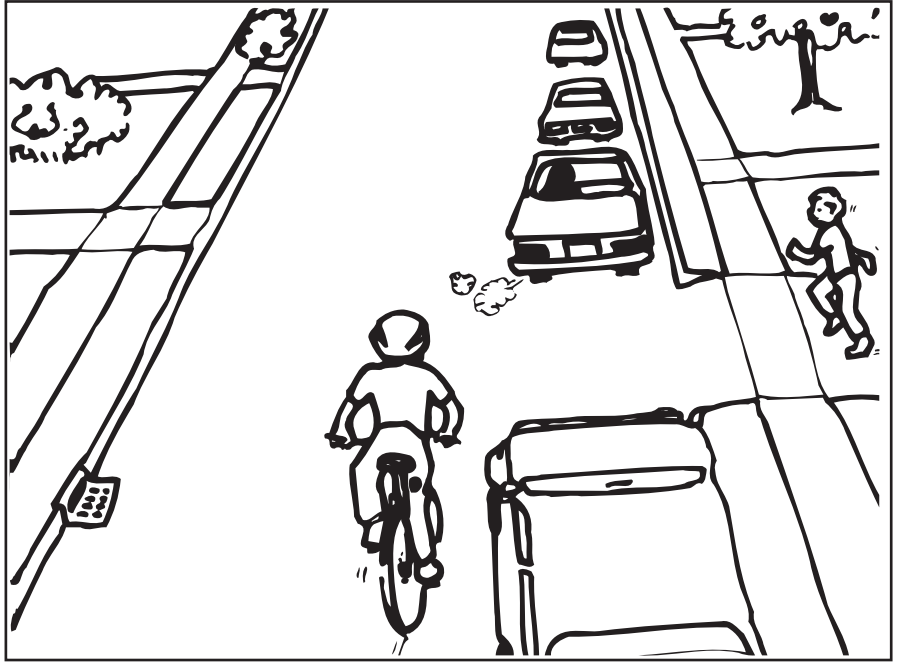
SITUATION 10

OPENING CAR DOORS

You are driving your bicycle down a street lined with parked cars. Ahead of you, you notice a boy running down a drive and across the sidewalk. You also see a parked car with a person in it. What could happen that you may have to react to?

- A) The boy might run into the street in front of you.
- B) The parked car with the person in it might pull out.
- C) The person in the parked car might open the car door in front of you.
- D) All of the above.

(CORRECT ANSWER: D)



DISCUSSION:

- 1) How can you tell a car might pull out?

Brake lights on, signal light, exhaust, person in the car, hear engine, front wheels turned outward or turning.

- 2) How can you tell that the car door might be opened?

Person in the car, saw car park, heard engine turn off, saw brake lights go off.

- 3) Does the driver always see you approaching and know you're there?

No. He/she may not see you in his/her mirror or even look in his/her mirror. Since the bicycle makes little sound, he/she might not hear you coming. You may be in the driver's blind spot.

- 4) How can you tell the boy will run into the street?

You can't really know what he'll do, but if you saw him running toward the road, you should be ready to stop.

CONCLUDING NOTE

Your students have just taken a bicycle driver's test on paper. Any incorrect answers that they may have had did not cause them physical harm. Impress upon them that had they made the same mistakes on the street, they could have been seriously injured or killed, or they may have injured someone else. It's not enough for them to know how to drive safely, they must also apply that knowledge. They are responsible for their own safety and that of others. They are indeed drivers, and have the same responsibilities as all other drivers that share the road.

MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIVISION



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